

App. Serial No.: 10/038,049

Atty. Docket No.: 0036-011

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action dated June 16, 2005, which has a shortened statutory period for response set to expire September 16, 2005. A three-month extension, to expire December 16, 2005, is requested in a petition filed herewith.

Claims

Claims 1-135 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-27, 32, 35-74, 79, 82-115, and 121-135 are rejected over prior art. Claims 28-31, 33, 34, 75-78, 80, 81, and 116-120 are objected to, but indicated to include allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 12-15, 17-20, 24, 29, 33, 95, 100-103, 105-108, 111, 117, 125, and 127-128 are amended and Claims 11, 16, 23, 28, 58, 63, 70, 75, 99, 104, 115, and 116 are canceled. Claims 2-10, 21-22, 25-27, 30-32, 34-57, 59-62, 64-69, 71-74, 76-94, 96-98, 109-110, 112-114, 118-124, 126, and 129-135 remain as filed or previously amended. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16, 19-27, 32, 35-63, 66-74, 79, 82-104, 107-115, and 121-135 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mculton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,826,711) and Miloushev et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,889,249). Claims 17-18, 64-65, and 105-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mculton et al. and Miloushev et al. and further in view of Utter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,649).

The claims are amended herein to obviate all of the outstanding rejections. The Examiner indicates that "Claims 28-31, 33-34, 75-78, 80-81, and 116-120 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Independent Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of indicated allowable Claim 28 and intervening Claims 23, 16, and 11. Claim 1 is, therefore, now allowable. Independent Claim 95 is amended to include the limitations of indicated allowable Claim 116 and intervening Claims 115, 104, and 99. Claim 95 is, therefore, now allowable. All other claims remaining in this application depend, either directly or indirectly, from either Claims 1 or Claim 95. Therefore, all remaining claims are allowable.

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The claims are amended to obviate the outstanding rejections and expedite the allowance of this application. The amendments are not intended to be and should not be construed as an admission with respect to the propriety of the outstanding rejections.

For the above reasons Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-10, 12-15, 17-22, 24-27, 27-57, 59-62, 64-69, 71-74, 76-98, 100-103, 105-114, and 117-135 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner undertake any action other than allowance of all remaining claims, or if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at (269) 279-8820.

Respectfully submitted,

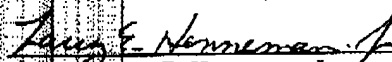
Date: 12/12/05


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via facsimile, on the date shown below, to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, at (571) 273-8300.

Date: 12/12/05


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